

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A wireless communication system with congestion relief, the system comprising:

- a plurality of ~~communication devices~~ mobile stations that include a call gapping list for holding phone numbers of destination nodes to be call blocked, wherein the plurality of ~~communication devices~~ mobile stations is configured to employ a call gapping process to block a call to a phone number of a destination node on its call gapping list prior to making the call normally; and
- a network entity operable to send a message containing a call gapping instruction to at least one ~~communication device~~ mobile station, wherein the call gapping instruction contains at least one phone number of a overloaded destination node to be stored in the call gapping list of that ~~communication device~~ mobile station, wherein the ~~communication device~~ mobile station is operable to initiate the call gapping process for any overloaded destination node in its call gapping list in order to block calls to the phone number of that destination node.

2. (canceled).

3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended) The wireless communication system according to Claim 1, wherein the network entity sends different call gapping instructions to ~~communication devices having select target users receiving a different quality grade of service requirements from other users.~~

5. (canceled).

6. (canceled).

7. (canceled).

8-12. (cancelled).

13. (currently amended) A method of congestion relief in a wireless communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

invoking a call gapping mode of operation for a plurality of ~~communication devices~~ mobile stations that include a call gapping list for holding phone numbers of destination nodes to be call blocked, wherein the call gapping process includes a mobile station blocking a call to a phone number of a destination node on its call gapping list prior to making the call normally;

sending a call gapping instruction to at least one ~~communication device~~ mobile station,

wherein the call gapping instruction contains at least one phone number of a overloaded destination node to be stored in the call gapping list of that ~~communication device~~ mobile station; and

performing said call gapping process in ~~a communication device~~ the mobile station operating in said wireless communication system, the ~~communication~~ mobile station initiating the call gapping process for any overloaded destination node in its call gapping list in order to block calls to the phone number of that destination node.

14. (canceled).

15. (canceled).

16. (currently amended) The method of congestion relief in a wireless communication system according to Claims 13, wherein the sending step includes sending ~~different~~ call gapping instructions to ~~communication devices having~~ select target users receiving a different quality grade of service requirements from other users.

17. (canceled).

18. (cancelled).

19. (new) A method of congestion relief in a wireless communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

invoking a call gapping mode of operation for a plurality of mobile stations that include a call gapping list for holding phone numbers of destination nodes to be call blocked, wherein the call gapping process includes a mobile station blocking a call to a phone number of a destination node on its call gapping list prior to making the call normally;

sending call gapping instructions to select target mobile stations receiving a different grade of service from other users, wherein the call gapping instruction contains at least one phone number of a overloaded destination node to be stored in the call gapping list of the select target mobile stations; and

performing said call gapping process in the select target mobile stations operating in said wireless communication system, the select target mobile stations initiating the call gapping process for any overloaded destination node in their call gapping list in order to block calls to the phone number of that destination node.